

City of Hickory

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM



City of Hickory
Traffic Division
P. O. Box 398
Hickory, NC 28603

Located at:
City of Hickory
Public Services
1441 9th Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601

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NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING MISSION

The mission of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program is to improve community safety and to preserve and enhance City of Hickory neighborhoods by working with residents and businesses to implement viable solutions to the negative impacts created by automobile traffic on neighborhood streets.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING PROCESS

The process consists of two phases. **Phase 1** includes the property owners' request and City evaluation. **Phase 2** includes a property owner petition and verification, City Council approval, and City implementation of appropriate traffic calming measure(s).

Phase 1: Request and Evaluation

Property Owner Request

A minimum of three (3) owners of separate properties along a street or residential area must submit an official request form to the Traffic Engineer to perform a traffic evaluation on neighborhood streets when the property owners have a traffic concern of *vehicle speeds that affect pedestrian safety or excessive volumes of through traffic in a residential neighborhood*. The City of Hickory Traffic Division provides the official request form.

Eligibility

The following criteria must be met for a street(s) to be eligible for traffic calming evaluation:

1. Street(s) must be classified as a two-lane, local residential street.
2. Street(s) must not be a Major or Minor Transportation Plan roadway.
3. Street(s) must not be a primary run route for emergency services such as Fire and Ambulance.
4. Must be at least one (1) year since an application for any traffic calming measure has been denied or become void for the same street(s).
5. Must be at least one (1) year since a traffic calming measure was implemented or removed on the same street(s).

Evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether or not the street(s) qualifies for one or more traffic calming measures. The evaluation may take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete from the time the completed official request is received. The Traffic Engineer determines eligible traffic calming measures by evaluating if the criteria are met for each of the measures. Appropriate locations and designs of the traffic calming measures are determined by the Traffic Engineer. The traffic calming measures and their requirements are listed on the following page.

Traffic Calming Measures and Requirements

Speed Limit Reduction

1. Street(s) must have less than 5,000 vehicles per day (VPD).
2. Street(s) must not have a posted speed limit of 40 MPH or greater to reduce speeds to 25 MPH. If the posted speed limit exceeds 40 MPH then, for safety reasons, the street(s) will require police patrol for two (2) months prior to installing the recommended measure.

Double-Yellow Center Line and Edge Line

1. Street(s) must have less than 5,000 VPD.
2. Street(s) must not have existing curb and gutter for edge line.
3. Speed limit must be posted at 25 MPH and at least 15% of the traffic on the street(s) must exceed the posted speed limit by at least 5 MPH.

Marked On-Street Parking

1. Street(s) must have less than 5,000 VPD.
2. Pavement width must be at least 24 feet.
3. Speed limit must be posted at 25 MPH and at least 15% of the traffic on the street(s) must exceed the posted speed limit by at least 5 MPH.

Multi-way Stops

1. Intersection must have a minimum volume of 250 VPD and no more than 5,000 VPD.
2. The longest leg of a side street of the intersection being considered must exceed 400 feet in length.
3. The intersection being considered must be at least 300 feet from another stop condition.
4. Speed limit must be posted at 25 MPH and at least 15% of the traffic on the street(s) must exceed the posted speed limit by at least 5 MPH.

Raised Chicanes or Other Road Diet Measures

1. Street(s) must have at least 500 VPD and no more than 5,000 VPD.
2. Grade of the street(s) shall not exceed 8% for vertical traffic calming measures.
3. Location(s) and design determined by the Traffic Engineer.
4. Must also have approval from a City of Hickory fire code official.
5. Speed limit must be posted at 25 MPH and at least 15% of the traffic on the street(s) must exceed the posted speed limit by at least 5 MPH.

Speed Tables

1. Street(s) must have at least 500 VPD and no more than 5,000 VPD.
2. Grade of the street(s) shall not exceed 8% for vertical traffic calming measures.
3. Speed table location(s) shall be located at least 300 feet from a curve with a horizontal radius of less than 300 feet.
4. Must also have approval from a City of Hickory fire code official.
5. Speed limit must be posted at 25 MPH and at least 15% of the traffic on the street(s) must exceed the posted speed limit by at least 5 MPH.

Once the evaluation is completed by the Traffic Engineer, they will notify the applicant in writing of the outcome. If the street(s) does not qualify, the specific reasons will be included in the notification. If the street(s) qualifies, Phase 2 of the Traffic Calming process will begin.

Phase 2: Petition and Implementation

Property Owner Petition

Phase 2 begins when the applicant receives written notice from the Traffic Engineer that the requested street(s) has met the requirements for traffic calming. An official petition form noting the qualifying traffic calming measure(s) is provided to the applicant. At the same time, the City will mail a letter to the property owners, based on tax records, listed on the petition. This letter will notify property owners of the traffic calming measure(s) and that a petition is being provided to the applicant and include contact information for the applicant. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary signatures and return the completed petition to the Traffic Engineer. A qualifying petition must be returned within sixty (60) calendar days of the start of Phase 2 or the petition becomes void. A petition is only considered complete if the following criteria are met:

1. Traffic Calming Petition must be on forms provided by the Traffic Engineer. The Traffic Engineer will only provide forms where the qualifying criteria under Phase 1 have been met.
2. The Traffic Engineer will define the area that must be petitioned. Generally, the entire length of the street must be petitioned. The only exception is when a street changes character or is bisected by a major or minor thoroughfare.
3. Additionally, petitions requesting multi-way stops, speed tables, or chicanes will include all properties within ¼-mile along the affected street(s) of the device's determined location(s), any property that must cross the multi-way stops or speed table to access the property, and/or any other properties as determined by the Traffic Engineer. This includes cul-de-sacs off the street receiving the traffic calming measure.
4. The Traffic Calming Petition must have a minimum of 75% of the properties within the boundary/property listing identified by the Traffic Engineer under Phase 1 as signing in favor of the petition. Each property only counts as one (1) property towards the 75% requirement, regardless of the number of owners. All persons or entities identified as owners, per tax records, are required to sign in order to qualify the property. For example: If a husband and wife are listed as owners of a property, both must sign the petition in order for the property to qualify. If a home owners association is listed as the owner of record, the President of the home owners association must sign the petition as President and if a property is shown as being an LLC or Incorporated, the person(s) responsible for signing for these business entities must sign for the property to qualify. For rental properties, the property owner(s) must sign; the renter(s) may not sign. These signatures are required in order to continue with the process.

Petition Verification

Once a completed petition is received, the Traffic Engineer will verify the signatures and notify the applicant and identified signatories of the qualifying traffic calming measure(s). Property owners will have fifteen (15) business days from the date of the letter to notify the Traffic Engineer, in writing, of any change to their signature on the petition, if they so desire. After this period, no signature can be added or removed from a petition.

If the petition is not received by the provided deadline or is submitted with insufficient signatures or has insufficient signatures after the verification period, the Traffic Engineer will notify the applicants and signatories in writing that the petition is void and will not be submitted to City Council. Applicants must wait one (1) year to submit another application.

City Council Approval

After a qualifying petition is received and verified, the Traffic Engineer will submit the traffic calming measure(s) to City Council. Traffic calming measure(s) must go through two (2) City Council readings for approval.

Installation

After a traffic calming measure(s) has been approved, it will be added to the work schedule depending on the availability of funds and number of other requests.

Paying for Traffic Calming Measures

The cost of installation of traffic calming measures, including standard speed tables, is borne by the City of Hickory. The standard speed table is asphalt with white traffic markings. However, if the applicants elect to pay the additional amount to upgrade to the deluxe speed table, the City will stamp and color the top of the speed table(s) as per the Manual of Practice. The cost associated with the stamping and coloring will vary, but it normally doubles the cost of the speed table. The cost to upgrade will be given to the applicant at the beginning of Phase 2 if requested by the applicant. In order to qualify for the upgrade to the deluxe speed table, complete payment must be paid by check to the City of Hickory and submitted with the completed, signed and qualifying traffic calming petition.

Removal of a Traffic Calming Measure

If a minimum of three (3) property owners desire to have a traffic calming measure removed, they must follow the same procedures outlined above. Traffic calming measures cannot be petitioned for removal until a minimum of one (1) year after installation. If the petition qualifies for the removal of the measure, there is no cost to the property owners for speed limit signs, multi-way stop signs, or pavement markings. However, if the measure is a raised chicane, other road diet measure, or speed table, the applicant requesting the measure(s) to be removed will be required to pay the City of Hickory upfront for the cost of removal, plus an additional cost if the measure is a deluxe speed table.

TRAFFIC CALMING STAFF

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